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Kansas City, Mo., June 23, 1943

SPECIAL HAY AND PASTURE REPORT AS OF JUNE 1, 1943

The June 1 condition of tame hay is 84 percent and wild hay 78, both lower than on June 1, 1942, but several points above their respective 10-year averages of 76 and 72 percent. In most of the important States east of the Mississippi River, except Illinois and Wisconsin, the condition of both tame and wild hay is reported higher than a year ago and also higher than average. The relatively good condition of the crop in the East is offset by a condition lower than last June in most Western States. Clover-timothy hay condition is above both last June and the 10-year average in most States east of the Mississippi, but below last year west of that river. Alfalfa hay condition is generally above the 10-year average except in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and an irregular belt extending from Washington and Oregon to Mississippi. However, it is lower than last June in most of the important States except Idaho, California, Texas, Michigan, and the Eastern Cotton Belt.

PASTURES: The condition of farm pastures on June 1 was the third highest since 1929 and was about the same as average for the date in the decade prior to the droughts of the 1930's. Due to the lateness of the season, growth of grass in most sections was not so far advanced as a year ago, but during May considerable improvement took place as the season progressed. With ample to excessive soil moisture there is a promise of development of considerable reserve feed supplies in pastures during June.

In northern States east of the Great Plains, pastures were in uniformly good to excellent condition and well above average for June 1. However, in seme of the Corn Belt States where moisture has been excessive, livestock have not been able to make full use of available feed because of soggy ground. In the Southern States east of the Mississippi River, pastures were slow in developing this year, but by June 1 were supplying much more feed than a year ago when moisture was short. In the West South Central States pastures were in average or better than average condition but were not as good as on June 1 last year.

From the Great Plains westward, condition of pastures and ranges was spotted and mostly below 1942. In an area including South Dakota and portions of adjacent States, lack of moisture and subnormal temperatures have held back growth of grass, and pasture condition ranged from fair to very poor on June 1. Recent rains, however, have improved grazing prospects there. Other areas in which dry weather materially reduced June 1 condition include southern and western Texas, large sections of New Mexico and Arizona, and portions of Utah. On the other hand, in the northern Mountain States and on the Pacific Coast, pastures and ranges were generally in good to excellent condition and furnishing good grazing for livestock.

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